

New York 31 March /44

Dear friend Garrison

GARRISON
MSS.

I have been requested to forward to you for publication in the Liberator the accompanying proceedings of a meeting, I have the more readily complied with the request of the friends inasmuch as I believe them sincere in wishing to as soon as may be remove any bad impressions which our friends who visited us may have had relative to the manner in which Johnsons remarks were received or approved by them, ^{as} Johnson is a (very unworthy) member of the 3^d Christian Church, and professes to have been called to preach (as does Ruggles also) and the meeting was got up mainly by members of that Society. They seemed to feel ashamed to let it be thought that they looked with any degree of allowance on his conduct - I think it (the meeting) will have the effect to do good. The pro slavery community, who hate Foster for his "Radicalism" & Garrison for his "Infidelity" seized with avidity on Johnsons speech and it was quite currently bandied about next day that the colored people were coming to their senses and did not go with Foster & Co. I have what encouragement I could to sustain the meeting

[Faint, illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

in order to bring these folks (3^d Christian Society)
out - they being like many others in a great degree
Priest ridden. I think they have now fairly
passed the "Rubicon" their Eyes are being opened
& they will ere long throw off entirely the
shackles - of clerical Influence & make the Cause
of Humanity a first - instead of a
minor Import - please excuse this
Intrusion on your Invaluable time. please
excuse any errors in this & correct any
in the "proceedings" & accept in behalf
of the New Bedford friends my sincere wishes
for your Health & Happiness. In haste
for the Cause Yrs &c
Nathl. Woodman

Mr Wm Lloyd Garrison
Editor Liberator
25 Corn Hill
Boston